After the above-inserted heading, please add the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace the heading "Technical Field" with the following heading:

--(1) Field of the Invention--

Please replace the heading "Background Art" with the following heading:

--(2) Description of Related Art--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A plurality of time series vectors trained by reducing distortion between speech for training and its coded speech, for example, is stored in the excitation codebook 109. The excitation codebook 109 outputs a time series vector corresponding to an excitation code inputted by the distance calculator 111.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 25, and continuing to page 3, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Each of the time series vectors outputted form the adaptive codebook 108 and excitation codebook 109 is weighted by using a respective gain provided by the gain coding means 110 and added by the weighting-adding means 138. Then, an addition result is provided to the synthesis filter 107 as excitation signals, and coded speech is produced. The distance calculating means 111 calculates a distance between the

2

coded speech and the input speech S101, and searches an adaptive code, excitation code, and gians for minimizing the distance. When the above-stated coding is over, a linear prediction parameter code and the adaptive code, excitatino code, and gain codes for minimizing a distortion between the input speech and the coded speech are outputted as a coding result.--

Please replace the heading "Disclosure of the Invention" on page 6, line 17, with the following heading:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace the heading "Brief Description of the Drawings" on page 10, line 14, with the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Please add the following paragraph after the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 2:

--Fig. 8 shows a block diagram of a whole configuration of a speech coding and decoding apparatus according to embodiment 8 of the invention.--

Please replace the heading "Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention" on page 11, line 4, with the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.